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**From:** Scholten, Roger [mailto:Roger.Scholten@swedish.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 5:14 PM  
**To:** Therien, Ned (DOH)  
**Subject:** FW: Petition for Rule Making regarding requirement for footwear in public locker rooms and showers

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**From:** Scholten, Roger  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2007 6:34 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:** 'craig.mclaughlin@doh.wa.gov'  
**Subject:** Petition for Rule Making regarding requirement for footwear in public locker rooms and showers

Subject:  
Petition for Rule Making regarding requirement  
for proper footwear in public locker rooms and showers

Dear Mr. Pherien and the Board of Health Members:

I would hereby like to petition the board on matters of public health in Washington state. I am Pediatrician currently practicing in West Seattle and have had the pleasure of calling WA state home for some 13 years now. During this time I would have to guess I've seen roughly 16,000 patients in my office. Doesn't seem quite possible as I now reflect on such a staggering sum, but I am here now to request from the board a new ruling to require the use of proper footwear upon entering any public locker room or shower in the state of WA. My concerns are such:

In all my time as a pediatrician I have treated innumerable veruccae (warts) in children, and of those I would easily state the majority of these belonging to the *Plantar Wart* variety. The treatment for these nuisance infections on the soles of your feet is usually long, protracted, expensive and requiring numerous office visits to your physician. This combined with the pain of treating a wart, usually by means of cryo therapy, is especially distressing in our children who are often too young to endure these treatments. What I find most aggravating, day in and day out, is that this daily occurrence in my office is almost completely avoidable. Plantar warts and athlete's foot are diseases that we commonly find on moist surfaces in locker rooms and shower floors where several hundred people gather everyday to spread their pedal ailments amongst us. And despite good intentions by most athletic clubs and schools, etc. to keep these areas clean, it is a daunting and an impossibly futile task to keep up with the constant traffic crowding these places during operating hours. Now I do admit to making my living from treating such ailments in my practice, but I am willing to forgo a portion my income if you would be so willing as to pass a health guideline requiring all public and private organizations who utilize locker rooms and showers on or in their facilities, to mandate the usage of proper indoor footwear (i.e. sandals, thongs, e.g.) by their patrons. I assume the footwear required would be strictly for use indoors. No outdoor footwear allowed. To think, something as simple as a pair of 99cent flip-flops could save literally hundreds of thousands in health care costs annually, not to mention the undo stress and pain endured by our children needlessly.

As for fungal infections of the toenails and feet also encountered in these places, the treatment of these often recalcitrant illnesses often require potent oral antifungal medications which run some risk of significant and potentially irreversible liver toxicity. A risk, as physicians, we'd like to avoid.

I have attached a link for a general explanation to a Mayo clinic website for some background information on warts.

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/plantar-warts/DS00509/DSECTION=3>

Sincerely,

Roger Scholten, MD  
Swedish Physician's Children's Clinic  
3400 California Ave SW, Suite 200  
Seattle, WA 98136

# (206)320-5780

[Roger.Scholten@swedish.org](mailto:Roger.Scholten@swedish.org)